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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA HOG INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

Hogs and pigs on SOUTH CAROLINA farms as of December 1, 2010, are estimated at 230,000 head, the USDA, NASS South Carolina Field Office announced today. This is 2 percent above the 225,000 head on December 1, 2009. South Carolina ranks 21st among all states while Iowa ranks first at 18.9 million head with North Carolina and Minnesota coming in second and third at 8.8 and 7.7 million head, respectively.

Of the total hog inventory on December 1, 14,000 were breeding hogs, unchanged from 2009 and 216,000 were market hogs, 2 percent above the 211,000 on hand a year earlier. Sows farrowed December 2009 - November 2010 was 26,000, down 10 percent from the previous year. The average litter rate for the year was 8.77 pigs per litter, compared to 8.52 a year ago. Total pig crop was 228,000, down 8 percent from the previous year.

U. S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 1 PERCENT

The UNITED STATES inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2010 was 64.3 million head. This was down 1 percent from December 1, 2009, and down 2 percent from September 1, 2010. Breeding inventory, at 5.78 million head, was down 1 percent from last year, but up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 58.5 million head, was down 1 percent from last year, and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2010 pig crop, at 28.2 million head, was down slightly from 2009. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down 2 percent from 2009. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.89 for the September-November 2010 period, compared to 9.70 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.70 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 2010-February 2011 quarter, down 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the December 2009-February 2010 quarter, and down 5 percent from December 2008-February 2009 quarter. Intended farrowings for March-May 2011, at 2.86 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2010 and down 5 percent from 2009.